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**KEMPSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955



H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer

C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Cert. Meat Inspection

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Building Surveyor

R. F. RAWLINS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

Clerks

MRS. C. J. KIRK

MISS J. HALL

General Foreman and Mortuary Attendant

H. J. MAYHEW

Rodent Operator

F. W. CAVES

To the Chairman and Members of the Kempston Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1955.

The health of the district, as indicated by the vital statistics and the low proportion of deaths which occurred under the age of 65, indicate a satisfactory state of health by present day standards. The incidence of infectious disease, with the exception of a mild form of measles, was low.

During the Spring a Clean Food Campaign was organised by the department, in Addison Howard Park. In spite of the bad weather it proved very successful. In addition, recent legislation enacted in the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1954, and the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, have considerably extended the powers of this Authority to supervise the standards of hygiene amongst food handlers and although it is too early to say what the ultimate effect will be, there are indications that standards are improving rapidly and that the public are becoming more conscious of the importance of cleanliness in the handling of food.

During the year under review there were 56 houses in the district considered unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repair and Rent Act, 1954 and action was taken to secure Demolition Orders on 38 of the worst of these. A subsequent appeal by the owner/occupiers of three of these secured the quashing of the orders subject to improvements being carried out. Unfortunately, at that time, the proposed legislation enabling the Authority to compensate property owners, had not become operative.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council and Council staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. S. BURY,

June, 1956

Medical Officer of Health

KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1955

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,302
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population, 1955 (including Service Personnel)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,900
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1955) according to the Rate Book									2,853
Rateable Value (1st April 1956)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£86,981
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£340

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The majority of employed people work in Bedford, or at Brick Works south of Kempston. A considerable number of men and girls are employed in Engineering Works in Bedford.

Apart from the Electric Lamp Works, the remainder in Kempston are small concerns comprising a Shoe Factory, Leather Works, Iron Foundry Works, Pattern Makers, Engineering Works, Crayon Works, Cardboard Box Factory, Tin Works and Metal Hose Works.

Social conditions are dominated by the housing shortage, with the consequence that many families are sharing houses and living in rooms often quite unsuitable. Although the Council are erecting houses as quickly as present restrictions will allow.

3. VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	60	70	130
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	1	4
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	63	71	134
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.1 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Birth Rate	...	...	...	16.1	„	„

(The comparability factor for the District being 1.07)

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	13.4 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	15.4	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15.0	„	„

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	5	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	—	5	5
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate ... 36.0 per 1,000 live and still births

As compared with—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	19.5	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	19.7	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	23.1	„	„	„	„	„

DEATHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths in the District	...	...	...	35	45	80
Transferred into District	...	...	...	23	18	41
Transferred from District	...	...	...	3	9	12
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	55	54	109
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Crude Death Rate ... 12.2 per 1,000 home population
 Comparable Death Rate ... 12.4 „ „ „ „

(The comparability factor for the District being 1.01)

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	8·9	per 1,000 home population
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	10·6	„ „ „ „
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11·7	„ „ „ „

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	2	2	4
				==	==	==

Infant Mortality Rate ... 29·9 per 1,000 related live births

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	26·1	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	18·0	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	24·9	„	„	„	„	„

DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality ... Nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	Nil	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	0·79	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	0·64	„	„	„	„	„	„

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes	Under 15 years		15-65		over 65		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—	3	—	1	—	4	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system ...	—	—	—	1	4	12	4	13
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	—	—	—	—	9	6	9	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease ...	—	—	1	2	6	13	7	15
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	4
22. Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
24. Bronchitis ...	—	—	4	—	3	2	7	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	3	1	2	5	4	7	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All other accidents ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
35. Suicide ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	2	3	16	7	37	44	55	54

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS

Cause	Age	Total
Meningitis ...	1 week	1
Prematurity ...	22 hours	1
„ ...	2 days	1
„ ...	16 hours	1

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

GENERAL HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton, Beds.

CHEST CLINICS (FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

Bedford General Hospital (South Wing).

Males and Females: Wednesday, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

Males and Females: Monday to Friday, 8.30 a.m.-8.30 p.m., Saturday, 8.30 a.m.-12 noon.

PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

	<i>Telephone</i>
BEDFORD Bedford Road, Kempston	Bedford 5335
AMPTHILL 14 Dunstable Street	Ampthill 3333
BIGGLESWADE Crab Lane	Biggleswade 2295
DUNSTABLE High Street North	Dunstable 761
LUTON 42 Church Street	Luton 4600
LINSLADE (Bucks. County Council) 10 New Road, Linslade	Leighton Buzzard 3332
RUSHDEN Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road	Rushden 403

DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

This Service is administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The nurses employed are :—

Nurse F. K. Patton†‡, 12 Stewartby (Tel: Lower Shelton 268).

Nurse M. Clark*†, 14 Birchdale Avenue, Kempston (Tel: Kempston 2172)

Mr. T. Eccles‡, 2 Cross Street, Bedford (Tel: Bedford 2030).

Nurse C. B. Macdonald‡, Flat 6, The Grange, Kempston (Tel: Kempston 2293).

† S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife) * S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)
‡ S.R.N. (State Registered Nurse)

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

Miss R. A. Potter, c/o "Hilldown", Biddenham

Miss E. B. Strong, Flat B, 14 Rothsay Gardens, Bedford.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Organiser: Mrs. V. M. Pedley, 3 St. Peter's Street, Bedford (Tel: Bedford 2207).

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road), Fridays 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINICS

St. Peter's Clinic,
3 St. Peter's Street,
Bedford.

Child Guidance
Dental (2 surgeries)
Orthoptic
Speech therapy
Sunlight

2 sessions weekly
Sessions as required
Six sessions weekly
Three sessions weekly
When specially arranged

5. SCHOOLS

There are four schools in the district:—

1. KEMPSTON SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

The average number of pupils on the roll (Christmas term) was 379.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	7 W.Cs. and 9 washbasins.
Boys	...	...	...	8 W.Cs. (of which 6 W.Cs. shared with Juniors from Primary School); 2 urinals and 11 washbasins.

2. BEDFORD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL (JUNIOR)

The average number of pupils on the roll (Christmas term) was 80.

Temporary accommodation for 75 children is provided at the East Methodist Church Hall.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls: infants and juniors	...	...	7 W.Cs.
Boys: infants	...	...	2 W.Cs. and 1 urinal
juniors	...	...	6 W.Cs. (shared with Secondary Modern School) and 1 urinal.

There are 9 washbasins.

In addition the following sanitary accommodation is provided at the East Methodist Church Hall.

Girls	...	...	...	2 W.Cs.
Boys	...	...	...	1 W.C. and urinal.

There are 2 sinks for washing purposes.

3. THE UP END PRIMARY SCHOOL (INFANTS)

The average number of pupils on the roll (Christmas term) was 273.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls: infants	...	}	10 W.Cs.
juniors	...		
Boys: infants	...	}	4 W.Cs. and 6 Urinals.
juniors	...		

There are 12 washbasins.

Only 1 W.C. is provided at this school for the use of teachers.

Each of the schools has a main water supply. School dinners are provided in canteens situated at the Kempston Secondary Modern School and in the Parochial Hall.

4. BALLIOL ROAD COUNTY PRIMARY (JUNIORS AND INFANTS)

Number of pupils on roll (Christmas term) was 321.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	12 W.Cs.
Boys	...	...	...	6 W.Cs.

6. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) WATER SUPPLY

Apart from four cottages situated on the outskirts of the District all premises are provided with a piped water supply from off the Council's distribution mains.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality, the 16 samples for bacteriological examination taken from various points on the supply during the year being of a high standard.

In July the continuing heavy consumption of water at the R.A.F. Station, Cardington and the re-occupation of Grange Camp, Kempston, created a serious situation in that the daily draw off from Moxhill Reservoir became greater than the amount of water capable of being pumped into it. For a period of three weeks therefore, supplies to these Establishments had to be restricted and the use of garden hoses and the washing of cars, etc. prohibited. A "Warning" leaflet explaining the position was distributed to all premises in the area.

Discussions have been inaugurated between Representatives of Kempston Urban District Council, Bedford Corporation and Bedford Rural District Council as to the question of setting up a Joint Water Board for the three Authorities and the possibility of supplying the areas concerned with water from the Corporation's supply extracted from the River Great Ouse.

Consumption figures for the year are given in the following table:—

	<i>Gallons</i>						
Kempston Urban District	99,169,000
Elstow	5,719,000
Cardington	3,064,000
R.A.W.	83,124,000
							<u>191,076,000</u>

During the year, seven defective services to dwelling houses were renewed, and three fractures of 4" supply mains dealt with. The Council continued its policy of re-washing leaking taps free of charge, and 118 received attention.

Complaints of an unpleasant appearance of tea made in a Local Works Canteen, due it was thought to matter being precipitated out of the boiling water used were thoroughly investigated and full chemical and bacteriological analysis of samples carried out. Reports obtained proved that the water was quite pure and wholesome and in every way suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The trouble disappeared after the brand of tea used was changed and the tea making methods in the Canteen amended.

(b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Apart from the following premises which are situated in the out-parts of the District, all dwelling houses are connected to the sewers:—

<i>Situation</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>Sanitary Arrangements</i>
Sailor's Bridge	2	Pail Closets
Mill Cottage	1	"
Kempston Mill	1	Chemical Closet
Bury Cottages	4	Pail Closets
Hoo Lodge	1	Cesspool
The Mill House	1	"
The Manor	1	"
Manor Cottage	1	"
The Manor Cottages	2	"
The Bury	1	"

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The scheme for the re-modelling and enlargement of the Works, which was the subject of Ministerial Inquiry in 1946 unfortunately still remains in abeyance.

The experiment of using layers of baled straw to facilitate sludge drying was continued during the year.

(c) RIVERS AND STREAMS

No complaints have been received of river or stream pollution during the year, and no action has been necessary.

(d) PUBLIC CLEANSING

During the year it became more and more difficult to maintain a regular weekly collection of refuse with one vehicle, this being due to the continued increase in the number of dwellings being erected and the fact that nearly a quarter of the refuse collected was from shops, factories, business and trade premises. After careful consideration the Council decided in March to purchase a Dennis 10/20 cubic yard Derby Type Side Loading vehicle to deal solely with the refuse from trade premises in the area. The new vehicle was operated from 1st December, from which date the Council decided to make a charge of 1s. per bin collected from all trade and business premises. The new arrangement has considerably improved the efficiency of the cleansing service, reduced the amount of overtime enforced on the Staff and appears to be appreciated by the traders in the District, as those who had previously made private arrangements for the clearance of their refuse now request the Authority to deal with it. It is anticipated that in the near future the Army Authorities will avail themselves of this service.

During the year 2,676 tons of house and trade refuse was collected and disposed of.

The following table shows the quantities of salvage sold:—

							<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Waste Paper, Books, Cardboard	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	16
Scrap Iron and Tins	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Textiles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	15
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
							40	11

Revenue from sale of Salvage during the year amounted to £216 ls. 11d.

During the year two additional street orderly trucks were purchased enabling the work of street sweeping to be more regularly and systematically carried out, although the shortage of labour available still presents a problem.

In April the Council entered into contract with a specialist firm employing mechanical equipment for the emptying and cleansing of all the road gulleys once every quarter. The cost of 1s. 6d. per gully per emptying represents a considerable saving over the cost of the work previously carried out by direct labour.

(e) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table shows the number of inspections made during the year, for all purposes:—

Dwelling-houses inspected and Recorded under the Housing Acts Regulations	58
Ordinary Inspections for housing defects	169
Sanitary routine inspections	213
Inspection of Slaughterhouses and Foodstuffs	38
Visits and revisits to Council Property relating to reported defects and repairs of same	984
Inspection of Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	53
Inspection of Cow-sheds and Dairies	8
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	9
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	3
Rooms disinfected	3
Inspection under Shops Act	4
Drainage Inspections	201
Drain Tests	92
Caravans	37
Other Miscellaneous visits	151
Water Services	184
Building Bye-laws	689

(f) SHOPS AND OFFICES

No action with regard to shops and offices was found necessary, except in the case of food shops which are reported separately.

(g) SMOKE ABATEMENT

Close observations have been made on the emissions of smoke and grit from factory chimneys and many consultations with the Managements concerned have been held.

(h) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the District.

During the summer period considerable use is made of a natural bathing pool and sandpit situated on the northern boundary of the district, by persons patronising the Honey Hill Lido. As the greater part of the premises come within the Borough of Bedford, supervision is carried out by officials of the Bedford Corporation Public Health Department.

(i) PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The total number of licenses in force was 28 in respect of petrol installations and 1 carbide.

(j) RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One premises is registered under this Act.

(k) LICENSED PREMISES

During the year one licensed premises (The Gardeners Arms) was closed down on the retirement of the occupier and at the remaining twelve premises works of improvements to bring them up to modern requirements were commenced.

(l) PUBLIC MORTUARY

A Public Mortuary is maintained by the Council at Farrer Street which, by arrangement, is available for use by the neighbouring Authorities of Ampthill and Bedford Rural District Councils. During the period under review no bodies were actually received into the Mortuary.

(m) DISINFECTIONS

Fumigation of rooms has been carried out as follows, by a dilute spray of Formalin and by Formaldehyde Gas.

After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
After Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	4

An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is also made in each case, and notice served to make good any defect that may be found.

Since the de-rationing of soap, the Council has resumed the free issue of carbolic soap to occupiers of premises where cases of infectious diseases occur.

(n) DISINFESTATIONS

Nine premises have been treated for the eradication of wasps and flies.

(o) MARINE STORES

Two persons with premises in the District are registered as Dealers in Scrap Metal.

(p) SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The re-commencement of private slaughtering was permitted in July, and all butchers and others concerned were informed of the Statutory requirements affecting the slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption. Two private slaughter houses were licensed by the Council and the following table shows the number of carcasses inspected to the end of the year:—

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	158	Nil
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	158	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Although the Council agreed to allow their Inspectors to carry out certification duties under the Government's Fat Stock Guarantee Scheme, no actual work was performed under the Scheme up to the end of the year.

7. HOUSING

The following table shows the number of houses completed for occupation since the end of the second world war:—

Year	By Kempston U.D.C.	By Other Authorities	By Private Enterprise	Total
1946	20	—	24	44
1947	28	—	6	34
1948	64	—	1	65
1949	28	—	8	36
1950	30	18	2	50
1951	14	6	5	25
1952	46	2	12	60
1953	20	—	30	50
1954	7 (flats)	—	19	26
1955	22	36	40	98
Totals	279	62	147	488

At the end of the year 20 Private Enterprise houses were under construction.

(1) APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

The total number of applications for houses on the books of the Council at the end of the year under review was as follows:—

(a) Applicants with families in rooms:

(i) Residing and working in Kempston	7
(ii) Residing but not working in Kempston	70
(iii) Working but not residing in Kempston	9
(iv) Not working or residing in Kempston	45

(b) Householders with families:

(i) Residing and working in Kempston	15
(ii) Residing but not working in Kempston	25
(iii) Working but not residing in Kempston	12
(iv) Not working or residing in Kempston	39

(c) Applicants without children:

(i) Residing and working in Kempston	9
(ii) Residing but not working in Kempston	25
(iii) Working but not residing in Kempston	5
(iv) Not working or residing in Kempston	27

(d) Single Persons 5

(e) Applicants for Old People's Dwellings 68

(f) Grange Flats 26

Total 387

(2) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	72
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	169
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	58
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	81
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	38
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	34

(3) REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

	Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	41
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(4) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	38*
2.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

* On appeal by the owner/occupiers of three of the above dwellings to the County Court, the Judge quashed the Demolition Orders subject to certain minor improvements being carried out.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(5) HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING

No action has been taken under this part of the Act although records of known cases of overcrowding are maintained which are brought to the notice of the department mainly because the persons concerned wish to strengthen their application for a Council House on these grounds. The standard of overcrowding is based on the number of occupants of a dwelling and the floor space of the rooms, and much distress can be caused when two or more families have to share a dwelling and its conveniences which may be designed only for a single family, though these cases do not come within the legal definition of overcrowding.

Considerable difficulty is still being experienced in getting house repairs carried out, particularly with the older types of small dwellings where the controlled rents are so low that the carrying out of extensive repairs by the owners creates definite hardship.

(6) HOUSING ACTS, 1949 AND 1954

25 applications for Improvement Grants were received during the period under review. Grants totalling £1,950 0s. 0d. were made by the Council in respect of 20 premises, the total cost of the works carried out amounting to £6,312 0s. 0d. Two applications were subsequently withdrawn and in respect of three applications, no grant was made.

8. NEW BUILDINGS

(1) PLANS SUBMITTED AND DEALT WITH DURING YEAR

Dwelling houses:—

(a) Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) War Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d) Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Local Authority Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Private Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Extensions or alterations to existing buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Industrial and Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Plans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) MILK SUPPLY

(i) DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS

The following table shows the number of distributors and dairy premises on the register at the end of the year.

Registered dairy premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Registered distributors—							
(a) Trading from premises within the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Trading from premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

(ii) SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MILKS

The following table shows the licenses issued and in force during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

"Tuberculin Tested"*

Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Dealers	3

"Pasteurised"*

Dealers	4
Supplementary Dealers	3

"Sterilised"

Dealer	1
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* Four distributors dealt in Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Frequent samples of designated milks are taken by the County Sanitary Officer who furnishes copies of the laboratory reports: these indicated that the supplies were entirely satisfactory during the year under review.

(2) OTHER FOODS

A. NUMBER OF FOOD HANDLING PREMISES IN THE AREA

							Number	Visits made
(a) Shops:—								
1.	Ice Cream vendors	...	...	...	...	...	21	10
2.	Bakers and confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	18	21
3.	Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	19	11
4.	Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
5.	General stores	...	...	...	...	...	13	11
6.	Delicatessen shops	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	8	32
8.	Dairies and retail milk distributors	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
(b) Vans, stalls, and hawkers								
		...	...	...	...	...	7	2

							Number	Visits made
(c) <i>Catering establishments:—</i>								
1.	Restaurants and cafes	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
2.	Industrial canteens	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
3.	School canteens	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
4.	Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Outside catering contractors	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Fish and chip shops	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
7.	Others	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(d) <i>Manufacturing establishments:—</i>								
1.	Sausage makers	...	...	...	...	...	6	28
2.	Meat pie and cooked meat makers	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
3.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
4.	Ice cream makers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Confectionery manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
6.	Others	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(e) <i>Licensed Premises</i>							12	18

B. CONDEMNED FOODS AND DISPOSAL THEREOF

All unsound food is surrendered voluntarily, and a condemnation certificate is issued. Condemned food is disposed of by arrangement with the Sanitary Inspectors.

Food condemned during the year consisted of:—

Imported and Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	662 lbs.
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.
„ Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	20½ lbs.

C. FOOD LEGISLATION: ACTION TAKEN UNDER:—

1. ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947-1952

There are at present no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the Urban District. Routine samples of Ice Cream are taken from the 21 retailers who are licensed under Sec. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

2. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 SECT. 13

Inspections were made at all food premises (including Public Houses) to ensure compliance with the provisions of the above Act. Particular attention paid to the following:—

- (1) Provision of washing facilities with hot water, and W.C. accommodation.
- (2) General cleanliness of premises.
- (3) Storage of food, including perishable goods.
- (4) Vermin infestation.

3. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 SECT. 14

All premises used for the sale and/or storage of Ice Cream and the manufacture of sausages or the preparation of prepared or cooked meats, etc., were registered, and routine inspections are made at periodic intervals.

4. LOCAL FOOD HYGIENE BYELAWS (ADOPTED 15TH AUGUST, 1950)

Copies of the above Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 were sent to all food premises (including Public Houses) on coming into operation. Visits are made to all premises and inspections made to detect any contraventions, and to secure compliance with these Byelaws.

5. PROPAGANDA AND EDUCATION ON CLEAN FOOD UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

A successful Clean Food Exhibition was held in the Park House, Addison Howard Park from the 14th to the 21st May.

10. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Notifications by Age Groups									Removed to hospital
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	over 15	Total	
Measles	2	10	6	12	15	79	1	—	125	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3

As will be seen by the above table, the incidence of infectious diseases was low except in the case of measles. This was rather unexpected as there was a high incidence in 1953. Immunisation against whooping cough is now practised widely, the County Council having undertaken to give free immunisation against this disease on the same lines as diphtheria. It is to be hoped that in a few years this disease will cease to be a problem.

All three cases of poliomyelitis were in adults; two made a complete recovery, the other case was fatal.

11. TUBERCULOSIS IN AGE GROUPS

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years to 15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 35 „	—	1*	—	1	1	—	—	—
35 „ 65 „	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
Over 65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2+1*	—	1	1	1	—	—

* Transferred from another District.

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR									Male	Female
Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	22
Non-Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5

DEATH RATES PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION

This District ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.5
Bedfordshire ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.7
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.1

12. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

No visit was made by the Unit to this district during the year.

13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tables appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

IMMUNISATION STATE OF THE CHILD POPULATION

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Total Under 15
Children completely protected (i.e. have received primary or booster injections since 1st January, 1950) ...	10	335	588	449	1,382
Children partially protected (i.e. have received primary injection prior to 1st January, 1950) ...	—	—	146	221	367
Total ...	10	335	734	670	1,749

VACCINATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccination	39	5	1	—	6	51
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	2	10	12

14. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

LICE AND SCABIES

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at 10s. per treatment for scabies and £1 per treatment for cleansing from vermin.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review 6 treatments were given.

15. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary to be taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was necessary under this Act during the year.

17. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following table shows the work undertaken during the year.

	No. of properties inspected	No. of properties found to be infested	No. of Notices served under Sec. 4	No. of treatments carried out	
				By Council's Operator	Voluntarily by occupiers
Local Authority's Property	7	2	—	2	—
Dwelling Houses	389	49	—	49	—
Business Premises	23	14	—	14	—
Agricultural Property	4	1	—	—	1
Total	423	66	—	65	1

In addition test baiting of the Council's sewerage system was carried out with negative results.

All complaints of rodent infestation are promptly investigated by the Council's Operator, who devoted a considerable amount of time in continuing the routine survey of the district. It was found that infestations at dwelling house properties were mainly associated with the keeping of poultry or animals.

Great importance is given to providing a prompt and efficient service which, though far from self-supporting from the financial aspect, is felt to be fully justified in preventing damage to properties and foodstuffs, and in the prevention of the spread of disease.

18. FACTORIES

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	41	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	11	—	—
Totals	63	58	2	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

3. OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc.	6	—	—	—	—	—